

**From:** Bob Harkness  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/6/02 5:01pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir:

Please include this in public comment regarding the Microsoft antitrust settlement.

I have worked developing software for 30 years so I have seen monopolistic pricing at work in the information technology industry. From a consumer's point of view, Microsoft provides a good value and definitely is not practicing monopolistic pricing. Oracle is a good comparison because they have been one of the loudest complainers about Microsoft, and their database product is directly comparable to Microsoft's SQL Server. The total cost of ownership on a per seat basis is much less for the Microsoft product. Oracle's database caters to the mid to high-end market. Microsoft's SQL Server will work effectively for small to upper mid market applications. Consumers have been well served by the competition.

On the other hand, Microsoft is an overly aggressive competitor. I consider some of their business practices unethical at best and obviously illegal in some cases. I don't want to see Microsoft run everyone else out of the business. But, I don't want the government to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Bottom line: I think the agreement that the federal government and Microsoft has reached is as good as we can expect. The sooner this is resolved the better it will be for the economy.

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